

IN THE DRAWINGS

To overcome the Office Action's objection to Figs. 4-13D, Applicant concurrently files herewith Submission of Replacement Drawings with seven (7) sheets of replacement drawings to substitute for the previously filed drawing sheets. Applicant amends Figs. 4-13D to add the legend "Prior Art", as suggested by the Examiner.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The drawings were objected to because Figs. 4-13D did not have a legend designating them as "Prior Art".

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,386,403 to Morioka ("Morioka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,284 to Kume et al. ("Kume").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 1 and 4-8 are pending for consideration. Claims 2-3 have been cancelled. New claims 4-8, depending from claim 1, have been added.

A Submission of Replacement Drawings is being filed herewith.

All claims define allowable subject matter

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Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2-3 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,386,403 to Morioka ("Morioka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,284 to Kume et al. ("Kume"). Claims 2-3 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-8, depending from allowed claim 1, have been added. Supporting disclosure for claims 4-8 is found, e.g., on pages 10-12.

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1 and 4-8 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 3, 2006

By:



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